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Letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation held in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine

Ukraine condemns in the strongest possible terms the organization by Russia in the territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation of elections to the seventh convocation of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Having occupied Crimea as a result of the armed aggression against Ukraine and forcefully imposing its legal framework over the peninsula, the Russian Federation continues its gross violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law defined in, among others, the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 5 December 1994, as well as in the obligations of the Russian Federation under bilateral and multilateral agreements to which Russia is a party.

Inclusion of that integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine into the Russian united federal constituency and creation in the Crimean peninsula of four separate single-member majority constituencies is a direct violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law. In this connection, the voting results and the terms of office for the four members of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation elected in Crimea by majority rule system and for the 225 members of parliament elected by proportional representation system are illegitimate as well as null and void. This calls into further question the legitimacy of the whole State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

We reiterate that, in its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", adopted by 100 votes in favour, the General Assembly called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

Ukraine counts on the consistency of our partners' position and their adherence to international law and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We call upon them not to recognize the results of elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with regard to voting in the territory of the occupied Crimean peninsula. Ukraine will forward to all international partners a list of persons involved directly in the organization of this electoral farce in Crimea and those who participated in the illegitimate elections for their inclusion on the sanctions lists.

Once more, Ukraine demands that the Russian Federation stop immediately its armed aggression against Ukraine and de-occupy the seized Ukrainian territories, withdrawing from there the Russian troops.